

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A system for providing links to services available to an
2 operably connected local computer over a network, comprising:
3 a thin portal service for finding services available to said local
4 computer;
5 a thin portal service web content created by said thin portal
6 service for returning links to the discovered available services; and,
7 a web browser installed on said local computer for displaying
8 said thin portal service content.
- 1 2. The system as defined in claim 1 wherein said thin portal
2 service queries the network for information on the current environment.
- 1 3. The system as defined in claim 2 wherein said thin portal
2 service queries the network by determining any one from the following group
3 of network information:
4 network information on the current environment of the local
5 computer;
6 active network address of the local computer;
7 available communication with the public Internet by the local
8 computer;
9 available communication with the public Internet by a web proxy
10 server connected to said local computer;
11 available services located on the local area network;
12 type of available services located on the local area network; and,
13 available devices located on the local area network.

1 4. The system as defined in claim 1 wherein said thin portal
2 service creates said thin portal web content providing links to the discovered
3 available services.

1 5. The system as defined in claim 1 further comprising a
2 personal imaging repository for storing imaging data to be used by the
3 available services, wherein said personal imaging repository is an exchange
4 infrastructure between the imaging data and the available services.

1 6. The system as defined in claim 5 wherein said personal
2 imaging repository is associated through user information stored with said
3 personal imaging repository.

1 7. The system as defined in claim 6 wherein said user
2 information is available through an extension component.

1 8. The system as defined in claim 5 wherein said personal
2 imaging repository stores the imaging data in a plurality of file formats.

1 9. The system as defined in claim 8 wherein said file format
2 is any one from the group consisting of:

3 Joint Photographic Experts Group Format;
4 Graphics Interchange Format;
5 Portable Network Graphics Format;
6 Tagged Image File Format;
7 Portable Document Format; and,
8 Microsoft Windows bitmap format.

1 10. The system as defined in claim 5 wherein said personal
2 imaging repository comprises an imaging data store for storing imaging data.

1 11. The system as defined in claim 10 wherein said imaging
2 data store is assigned to a user associated with said personal imaging repository
3 for storing imaging data for user usage.

1 12. The system as defined in claim 10 wherein said imaging
2 data store is assigned to a web service for storing imaging data available to the
3 public.

1 13. The system as defined in claim 5 wherein said personal
2 imaging repository comprises a composition store for storing imaging
3 compositions of the imaging data that are serviced as a single unit.

1 14. The system as defined in claim 13 wherein said imaging
2 composition comprises a link reference for each imaging data.

1 15. The system as defined in claim 5 wherein one of the
2 available services is an imaging source service for accessing said personal
3 imaging repository assigned to a particular user profile.

4 16. The system as defined in claim 5 wherein one of the
5 available services is an imaging destination service for providing service to the
6 assigned user of the personal imaging repository.

7 17. A local computer for providing links to services available
8 over a network, comprising:

9 a thin portal service for finding available services that are
10 operably connected to the local computer;

11 a thin portal service web content for returning links to the
12 discovered available services to said local computer;

13 a web browser installed on said local computer for displaying
14 said thin portal service content; and,

15 a personal imaging repository for storing imaging data to be
16 serviced by the available services;

17 wherein said personal imaging repository is an exchange
18 infrastructure between the imaging data and the available services.

1 18. A server computer for providing links to services available
2 to an operably connected local computer over a network, comprising:

3 a thin portal service for finding services available to said local
4 computer;

5 a thin portal service web content created by said thin portal
6 service for returning links to the discovered available services; and,

7 a web browser installed on said local computer for displaying
8 said thin portal service content.

1 19. A method for providing links to services available to an
2 operably connected local computer over a network, said method comprising the
3 steps of:

4 finding services available to the local computer;

5 creating a thin portal service web content for returning links to
6 the discovered available services; and,

7 displaying said thin portal service content on the local computer.

1 20. The method according to claim 19 wherein said step of
2 finding links to available services further comprising the steps of:

3 querying network information on the current environment of the
4 local computer; and,

5 determining the active network address of the local computer;

1 21. The method according to claim 19 wherein said step of
2 finding services further comprising the step of discovering available services
3 on the local area network.

1 22. The method according to claim 19 wherein said step of
2 finding services further comprising the step of determining whether the local
3 computer is connected to any available devices.

1 23. The method according to claim 19 wherein said step of
2 finding services further comprising the steps of:

3 determining whether the local computer can communicate with
4 the public internet; and,

5 determining whether there is a web proxy server connected to the
6 local computer for communicating with the public Internet.

1 24. A computer program product comprising a computer
2 usable medium having computer readable program codes embodied in the
3 medium that when executed causes a computer to:

4 find services available to the local computer;

5 create a thin portal service web content for returning links to the
6 discovered available services; and,

7 display said thin portal service content on the local computer.

1 25. A computer program product comprising a computer
2 usable medium having computer readable program codes embodied in the
3 medium that when installed in a server computer, the product causes the server
4 computer to:

5 find services available to the local computer; and,

6 create a thin portal service web content for returning links to the
7 discovered available services.

1 26. A computer program product comprising a computer
2 usable medium having computer readable program codes embodied in the
3 medium that, when installed in a local computer, the product causes the local
4 computer to:

5 find services available to the local computer;

6 create a thin portal service web content for returning links to the
7 discovered available services; and,

8 display said thin portal service content on the local computer.